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 US AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
 Office of Afghanistan and Pakistan Affairs

REQUEST FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (RCE)
PROGRAM/ACTIVITY DATA

Country code: 360
 Strategic Objective Name: Special Program to address the issue of Survivors
 Program Objective: Special Program to address the issue of Survivors
 Program Area: Disability Fund
 Program Element: Disability Fund
 Activity Name: Community Center for the Disabled (CCD): Strengthening Communities-
 Empowering People with Disabilities
 Funding Begin: 09/30/2013 Funding End: 02/29/2015 LOP amount: \$299,948.00
 IEE prepared by: Khaksar Adel, OEGI
 Date: November 3, 2013
 IEE Amendment (Y/N): No

Environmental Action(s) Recommended (check all that apply):

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Categorical Exclusion | <input type="checkbox"/> | Deferral |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Positive Determination | <input type="checkbox"/> | Negative Determination |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Negative Determination with Conditions | <input type="checkbox"/> | Exemption |

1.0 PURPOSE, BACKGROUND AND ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION
1.1 Purpose and Scope of the IEE

The purpose of this Supplemental IEE is to provide country-specific information about the activities to be carried out in the Community Center for the Disabled (CCD): Strengthening Communities-Empowering People with Disabilities Project in Afghanistan. The CCD project is funded through the Special Programs to Address the Needs of Survivors (SPANS) which was solicited under the DCHA-managed FY 2012 Disability Funding RFA. A Programmatic IEE was for SPANS was approved by the DCHA BEO on 1/29/2009 and a Supplemental IEE on 11/5/2009.

1.2 Background and Activity Description

The goal of the project is to increase employment and economic opportunities for people with disabilities (PwDs) in Kabul Province and to facilitate the socioeconomic inclusion of PwDs in Afghanistan through economic empowerment, societal awareness rising, and capacity building. This will be realized through the provision of technical and vocational skills building programs, small capital grants, business management support, and broad-based awareness raising campaigns that highlight the productive potential of PwDs.

Project activities are as follows:

- Identify beneficiaries
- Raise awareness among communities regarding PwDs
- Assess the specific socioeconomic needs of PwDs
- Provide basic education; English, Computer, and literacy training; vocational and apprenticeships training; basic business training to 140 PwDs
- Develop business plans for PwDs
- Provide on-site technical support to businesses managed by PwDs trained under this program
- Provide selected PwDs with employment as trainers and other

2.0 RECOMMENDED THRESHOLD DECISIONS

The table below lists activities covered in this RCE, the environmental impacts and Reg. 216 determinations.

Activities	Effect on Natural or Physical Environment	Determination and Reg. 216 actions required
Raise awareness among communities regarding PwDs Provide basic education; English, Computer, and literacy training; vocational and apprenticeships training; basic business training to 140 PwDs Provide on-site technical support to businesses managed by PwDs trained under this program	No impact	Categorical Exclusion, no actions required per 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2) (i)
Identify beneficiaries Assess the specific socioeconomic needs of PwDs Develop business plans for PwDs	No impact	Categorical Exclusion, no actions required per 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2) (iii)

3.0 JUSTIFICATION FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REQUEST

The project qualifies for a categorical exclusions, as per 22 CFR 216.2 (c) (2) (i) and (iii):

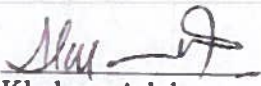
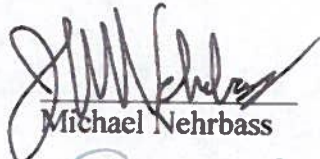
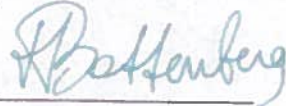

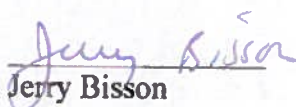
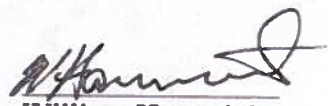
- (i) Education, technical assistance, or training programs except to the extent such programs include activities directly affecting the environment (such as construction of facilities, etc.);
- (iii) Analyses, studies, academic or research workshops and meetings;

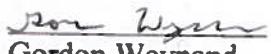
4.0 REVISIONS

Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.3(a)(9), if new information becomes available which indicates that activities to be funded by the program might be “major” and the program’s effect “significant,” or if additional activities are proposed that might be considered “major” and their effects significant, this RCE will be reviewed and revised by the originator of the project and submitted to the Bureau Environmental Officer (BEO) for approval and, if appropriate, an environmental assessment will be prepared. It is the responsibility of the USAID COR/AOR to keep the Mission Environmental Officer, USAID/Afghanistan and the BEO/OAPA informed of any new information or changes in scope and nature of the activity that might require revision of the RCE.

Clearance Page

Community Center for the Disabled (CCD)

	Clearances:	Date:
AOR/COR	 Khaksar Adel	<u>11/6/2013</u>
OEGI Office Deputy Director	 Michael Nehrbass	<u>11/6/2013</u>
Mission Environmental Officer	 Harry Bottenberg	<u>11/16/2013</u>
Regional Legal Advisor	 Julie Southfield	<u>11.7.2013</u>
Regional Environmental Advisor/Asia & OAPA	<u>conceded by email</u> Andrei Barannik	<u>11/6/2013</u>
Deputy Mission Director	 Jerry Bisson	<u>11/7/2013</u>
Mission Director	 William Hammink	<u>8 Nov. 2013</u>

	Approval:	Date:
Bureau Environmental Officer	 Gordon Weynand	<u>11/14/13</u>

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